

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An AV communication control circuit, comprising:
  - a copyright protection processing unit configured to carry out a copyright protection processing with respect to AV data entered from an AV stream signal line;
  - a selection unit configured to select either one of AV data entered from an AV stream signal line and AV data entered from a general purpose bus; and
  - a transmission control unit configured to carry out control for transmitting AV data selected by the selection unit to a network.
- 15 2. The AV communication control circuit of claim 1, wherein the copyright protection processing unit carries out the copyright protection processing with respect to AV data entered for which the copyright protection processing has not been carried out before entering the AV communication control circuit, and the selection unit selects either one of AV data entered from the AV stream signal line for which the copyright protection processing is carried out by the copyright protection unit and AV data entered from the general purpose bus for which the copyright protection processing has been carried out before entering the AV

communication control circuit.

3. The AV communication control circuit of claim 1,  
further comprising:

5 a first external connection terminal for receiving  
AV data from the AV stream signal line and supplying  
received AV data to the copyright protection processing  
unit; and

10 a second external connection terminal for  
receiving AV data from the general purpose bus and  
supplying receiving AV data to the selection unit.

4. The AV communication control circuit of claim 1,  
further comprising:

15 an external connection terminal capable of being  
connected with either one of the AV stream signal line  
and the general purpose bus, for receiving AV data from  
one of the AV stream signal line and the general  
purpose bus;

20 another selection unit configured to select a  
target to supply AV data received at the external  
connection terminal to either an AV stream internal  
signal line connected to the copyright protection  
processing unit or a general purpose internal bus  
25 connected to the selection unit; and

a selection control unit configured to control

selecting operations of the selection unit and the another selection unit in synchronization.

5. The AV communication control circuit of claim 4,  
5 wherein the copyright protection processing unit carries out the copyright protection processing with respect to AV data supplied through the AV stream internal signal line when the another selection unit selects the AV stream internal signal line, and the 10 selection unit receives AV data for which the copyright protection processing has been carried out before entering the AV communication control circuit through the general purpose internal bus when the another selection unit selects the general purpose internal 15 bus.

6. The AV communication control circuit of claim 1, further comprising:

another copyright protection processing unit 20 configured to carry out the copyright protection processing with respect to AV data entered from the general purpose bus.

7. An AV communication control circuit, comprising:  
25 a reception control unit configured to carry out control for receiving AV data through a network;

a selection unit configured to select a target to supply received AV data as either one of an AV stream internal signal line and a general purpose internal bus; and

5 a copyright protection processing unit configured to carry out a copyright protection processing with respect to AV data supplied to the AV stream internal signal line when the selection unit selects the AV stream internal signal line.

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8. The AV communication control circuit of claim 7, wherein AV data for which the copyright protection processing is carried out by the copyright protection unit are outputted to an AV stream signal line when the 15 selection unit selects the AV stream internal signal line and AV data for which the copyright protection processing is not carried out are outputted to a general purpose bus when the selection unit selects the general purpose internal bus.

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9. The AV communication control circuit of claim 7, further comprising:  
a first external connection terminal for outputting AV data from the AV stream internal signal 25 line to the AV stream signal line; and  
a second external connection terminal for

outputting AV data from the general purpose internal bus to the general purpose bus.

10. The AV communication control circuit of claim 7,  
5 further comprising:

an external connection terminal capable of being connected with either one of the AV stream signal line and the general purpose bus, for outputting AV data from one of the AV stream internal signal line and the 10 general purpose internal bus;

another selection unit configured to select either one of AV data supplied through the AV stream internal signal line and AV data supplied through the general purpose internal bus and supply selected AV data to the 15 external connection terminal; and

a selection control unit configured to control selecting operations of the selection unit and the another selection unit in synchronization.

20 11. The AV communication control circuit of claim 10,  
wherein the another selection unit selects either one of AV data supplied through the AV stream internal signal line for which the copyright protection processing is carried out by the copyright protection 25 processing unit and AV data supplied through the general purpose internal bus for which the copyright

protection processing is not carried out.

12. The AV communication control circuit of claim 7,  
further comprising:

5 another copyright protection processing unit  
configured to carry out the copyright protection  
processing with respect to AV data supplied through the  
general purpose internal bus.

10 13. A computer program product for causing a computer  
to function as an AV communication control circuit, the  
computer program product comprising:

a first computer program code for causing the  
computer to carry out a copyright protection processing  
15 with respect to AV data entered from an AV stream  
signal line;

a second computer program code for causing the  
computer to select either one of AV data entered from  
an AV stream signal line and AV data entered from a  
20 general purpose bus; and

a third computer program code for causing the  
computer to carry out control for transmitting AV data  
selected by the selection unit to a network.

25 14. A computer program product for causing a computer  
to function as an AV communication control circuit, the

computer program product comprising:

a first computer program code for causing the computer to carry out control for receiving AV data through a network;

5 a second computer program code for causing the computer to select a target to supply received AV data as either one of an AV stream internal signal line and a general purpose internal bus; and

10 a third computer program code for causing the computer to carry out a copyright protection processing with respect to AV data supplied to the AV stream internal signal line when the selection unit selects the AV stream internal signal line.

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